

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOGADI 02035 131131Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 TRSE-00
ACDA-07 MC-02 ERDA-05 SAJ-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 ERDE-00 ISO-00 /088 W
----- 108148 /17

O R 131105Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4465
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 2035

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARRR MASS, UR, SO
SUBJ: REPORT OF NEW SOVIET BASE

REF: (A) NAIROBI 13946 (B) MOGADISCIO 2009

1. EMBASSY HAS NO RPT NO EVIDENCE THAT THERE IS A SOVIET BASE
AT BUR GAVO OR ELSEWHERE ON SOUTHERN SOMALI COAST. INFORMATION
AVAILABLE HERE INDICATES THAT HOUSING PROJECT FOR FISHING COMMUNITY
WAS RECENTLY COMPLETED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE INLET, OPPOSITE
BUR GAVO TOWN. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THIS ACTIVITY WAS MISTAKEN
FOR SOVIET BASE CONSTRUCTION. (FYI: BUR GAVO WAS, IN FACE, USED
AS SUBMARINE BASE BY ITALIANS IN WORLD WAR II. BUR GAVO INLET
IS ONE OF FEW NATURAL DEEP-WATER PORTS IN SOMALIA. END FYI)

2. WE SHARE EMBASSY NAIROBI'S CONCERN THAT SOVIET BASE
ALLEGATIONS AND USMC FLY-BY WILL BE LINKED IN WESTERN MEDIA. EVEN
IF NOT SO LINKED, THE GSDR, WHICH IS VERY SENSITIVE TO ANY US
INTERACTION WITH SOMALIA'S NEIGHBORS, IS QUITE CAPABLE OF
CONCLUDING ON ITS OWN THAT THE FLY-BY AND ALLEGATIONS REFLECT
STEPPED-UP US/KENYAN COOPERATION AGAINST SOMALIA. THIS WOULD
BE PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE BECAUSE THE GSDR, WHICH HAS SEEMED
TO BE SIGNALLING A DESIRE FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL
RELATIONS (REFTEL B), MAY INTERPRET THE KENYAN EVENTS AS A
US REJECTION OF THEIR APPARENT SIGNALS.

3. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT SOPKESMEN FIND AN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOGADI 02035 131131Z

OCCASION TO RESPOND THAT US HAS NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT

ASSERTION THAT SOVIETS ARE BUILDING BASE IN BUR GAVO.
VERBALLY DISSOCIATION THE USG FROM THE STORY MAY NOT PERSUADE
THE GSDR OF US NON-INVOLVEMENT, BUT IT MIGHT AT LEAST LIMIT
THE DAMAGE.

4. FOR NAIROBI: WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING TEXTS OF
LOCAL REPORTAGE AND EDITORIAL COMMENT, IF ANY, ON BASE
ALLEGATION.
LOUGHRAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY BASES, INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOGADI02035
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760458-1017
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761249/aaaabptn.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 NAIROBI 13946, 76 MOGADISCIO 2009
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORT OF NEW SOVIET BASE
TAGS: MARR, MASS, UR, SO, KE
To: NAIROBI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006